

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
May 9th, 2016 7:30 PM
NRC, Wellesley Town Hall**

Attending: Stephen Murphy, Chair; Lise Olney, Vice Chair; Raina McManus, Secretary; Joan Gaughan; Heidi Gross; Brandon Schmitt, Director;

Public Voice

No one spoke at Public Voice.

New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- Trails: Ms. Gaughan discussed the trail across Hunnewell field and expressed the Trails Committee's excitement about the project being completed.
- 3R working Group: Ms. McManus reported that she, Ellen Korpi, and Stephanie Hawkinson had met with Demian Wendrow, head of the Wellesley Square Merchants Association, to discuss the results of the merchants survey and ways to address waste issues in the square, particularly at large events like the July Jubilation .
- On May 12 the 3R Group will be meeting with Holly Bitz of Federal Realty to discuss marketing strategies to communicate the new plastic bag bylaw to Linden Square businesses and their customers.
- On 5/13, Ms. McManus will be attending the Wellesley Square Merchants Association meeting to present information and answer questions about the new plastic bag bylaw. Ms. Olney explained that the 3R Working Group had met with the DPW to discuss next steps for the Group, including waste along the marathon route, as well as regularly produced waste along Central Street. Possibilities for improvement include removing waste hauler dumpsters from sidewalks on Friday nights, and communicating with landlords. This summer the group will begin to work with restaurants regarding food waste.
- The NRC and the Health Department will jointly work on outreach to educate the public and retailers about the new plastic bag bylaw.
- Ms. Gaughan asked about placing plastic recycling bins adjacent to trash bins on Central Street. Ms. Olney explained that the public generally ignores signage and places trash in recycling bins, causing contamination of recycling loads. The board also discussed making composters for sale to the public at the RDF, and Mr. Schmitt will look into their availability.
- Green Collaborative Structure: Ms. Olney explained that the Green Collaborative meeting on Integrated Pest Management for lawn care was well attended, and included presentations by resident Sarah Little and organic lawn care expert Chip Osborne. Town Horticulturist Cricket Vlass also presented the audience with a list of native plants and ground covers. This was a preliminary presentation, and will lead to a public event. The Board will approach the Library, Selectmen, Police, and Fire to inquire if they are willing to have their properties adhere to the NRC's IPM plan. The NRC plans a comprehensive public outreach campaign in the upcoming months.
- Parade: The board discussed the NRC's participation in the Wellesley Wonderful Weekend parade, and discussed Sustainable Wellesley's plan to have all the "green" groups marching together. Members of the Wetlands and the Trails Committees will be invited to attend.
- Trail counters: The board discussed the proposal to install trail counters and agreed that the proponent should visit both the NRC and Trails.
- Ms. McManus asked it if would be possible to determine how much of Town land is used as playing fields. Mr. Schmitt will request that information from GIS.

Director's Report

- **Contract Updates** – Mr. Schmitt explained that he had reached staff at Horsley Witten and requested updates to the Morses Pond erosion study and Kelly field courts, but had not yet received an update. The board then scheduled meetings to discuss initial results for the Comprehensive Pond Mgt. Plan for June 16th and June 23rd.
- **Tree Photo Exhibition** – Mr. Schmitt reported that Ms. Enku Kebedee-Smith had proposed a photo exhibition for the following year, and would be developing the proposal with NRC support.
- **Parking At State Street Lot** – The board discussed a proposal from the Parking clerk and Police Department to move 2 handicap accessible parking spots from the south end of the lot to the north end to allow easier access to the track and field area. However, it was not clear whether this was a request based on an actual need. Consequently, the board rejected the initial proposal until more information about the request was known.
- **End of Year Budget Review** – The board discussed the remaining budget for FY16, and outstanding items and initiatives.

Other items not anticipated prior to posting

- **Centennial Vista:** Ms. Gaughan explained that there was some public interest in cutting the trees at the Centennial Reservation to improve the viewpoint from the top of the hill. The board agreed to first visit the site, and then discuss the proposal at a future meeting.
- **Storage Unit @ High School** – Mr. Schmitt described a proposal to install small storage sheds on NRC property behind cooling units. The board rejected this proposal.

Approve April 27th, 2016 Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the board 5-0 to approve the minutes as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt

Brandon Schmitt
Director, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission